

FIPRESCI-INDIA NEWSLETTER

September 2021

Monthly Bulletin of the India Chapter of International Federation of Film Critics

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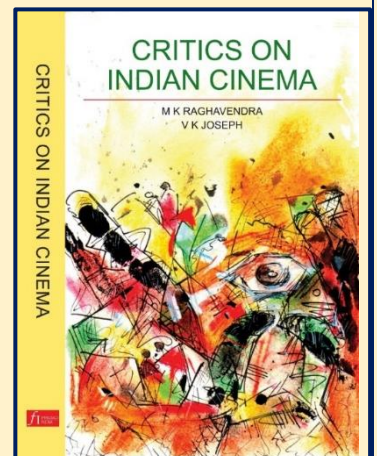
FIPRESCI-INDIA PRESENTS CRITICS WEEK

FIPRESCI-India's proposal to present the 'Critics Week' within the framework of the International Film Festival of Kerala (IFFK) has been accepted 'on principle' by the Kerala Chalachitra Academy. The first ever "Critics Week" in an International Film Festival in India will be presented during the 26th IFFK scheduled physically from 10 to 17 December 2021 in Trivandrum, subject to the prevailing pandemic situation. Though the 'Critics Week' is basically planned as a competitive segment to promote the new talents from all over the world, but due to technical

reasons the 1st edition will be showcasing only a package of seven selected films especially from Asia, Africa and Latin America, which already won FIPRESCI International Critics Award in different Festivals worldwide. A similar segment is already running in Bangalore International Film Festival (BIFFES) for a couple of years though the 'Critics Week' is yet to be started there as a parallel event. Both of these festivals, IFFK and BIFFES, already have FIPRESCI International Critics Jury and host FIPRESCI seminars on film criticism regularly.

FIPRESCI-INDIA'S FIRST PUBLICATION COMING UP SOON

FIPRESCI-India's first publication titled 'Critics on Indian Cinema' is coming up soon. The book edited by MK Raghavendra and VK Joseph with Aruna Vasudev, Manoj Barpujari, N Vidyashankar and Rita Dutta in the Editorial Board contains 20 articles on different aspects of Indian Cinema in three chapters like: Film directors and their work, Understanding Indian Cinema and Exploring the Cinemas of the North-East. Cover of the book designed by the veteran artist Judhajit Sengupta. The publication is financed by the Federation of Film Societies of India Keralam and published in collaboration with the reputed Kolkata based publisher the Best Books. The 300 pages hard bound book will soon be available for online purchase through Amazon and Flipkart.



FIPRESCI-INDIA MOURNES THE SAD DEMISE OF KIRILL RAZLOGOV



FIPRESCI-India deeply mourns the sad demise of the veteran film critic, art historian, teacher, curator, and a great soul Kirill Emilevich Razlogov (B. 6 May 1946 in Moscow). He was the President of the Russian Guild of Film Critics from March 2015 until his death on 26 September 2021 in Moscow. He was also the director of the Russian Institute for Cultural Research from 1989 to 2013. He worked as the program director of the Moscow International Film Festival since 1999. He authored fourteen books and myriad academic papers on the history of art, culture and cinema. As a Juror and on various other assignments of FIPRESCI, he travelled many countries around the world. His last visit to India was in February 2018 during the 10th Bengaluru International Film Festival. He had many good friends

worldwide and also had a very good personal relation with several members of FIPRESCI-India.

78th VENICE INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

FIPRESCI Award in the international competition section of the 78th Venice International Film Festival (1-11 September 2021) went to the French feature film 'L'événement' (Happening, 2021, 100M) by Audrey Diwan. In the parallel section 'Critics Week,' the Award was given to the Iranian feature film 'Zalava' (2021, 93M) by Arsalan Amiri. The FIPRESCI Jury was composed of Alissa Simon (USA), René Marx (France), Dina Pokrajac (Croatia), Gaia Simionati (Italy), Max Borg (Switzerland) and Frédéric Pascali (Italy). This is important to note



that the FIPRESCI Award winning film 'Happening' by Audrey Diwan also won the Grand Prix 'Golden Lion' for Best Film. The Grand Jury, chaired by Bong Joon Ho and composed of Saverio Costanzo, Virginie Efira, Cynthia Erivo, Sarah Gadon, Alexander Nanau and Chloé Zhao, watched 21 films in the main competition. 'Silver Lion' for the 2nd Best film was awarded to 'The Hand of God' (Italy, 2021, 130M) by Paolo Sorrentino which also won the 'Francesco Pasinetti Award' for Best Film given by the National Union of Italian Film Journalists.

13th PRISHTINA INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL



FIPRESCI Award in the 13th Prishtina International Film Festival (PriFest) held in the capital of the newest country in Europe, Kosovo, in Balkans from 24 to 29 August 2021, was given to 'Full Moon' (Pun mjesec, Bosnia and Herzegovina, 2019, 85M) by Nermin Hamzagić. The Jury consisted of Anne-Christine Loranger (Canada), Michele Sancisi (Italy) and Malik Berkati (Germany) gave

the award from the films under Balkan Competition.

55th KARLOVY VARY INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

FIPRESCI Award in the 55th Karlovy Vary International Film Festival (20-28 August 2021) went to 'Exam' (Ezmûn, Germany, Iraq, Kurdistan, Qatar, 2021, 89M) by Shawkat Amin Korki. The Jury consisting of Birgit Beumers (UK), Eirik Bull (Norway), Adéla Mrázová (Czech Republic) judged the films in 'Crystal Globe Competition'. This year, the FIPRESCI Award was



dedicated to the memory of the eminent film critic Jan Foll (1951–2021) who influenced film criticism in the Czech Republic to a great extent. 'Crystal Globe', the main Award of the Festival for Best Film went to 'As Far as I Can Walk' (Serbia, France, Luxembourg, Bulgaria, Lithuania, 2021, 92M) by Stefan Arsenijević and the Special Jury Award went to 'Every Single Minute' (Každá minuta života, Czech Republic, Slovak Republic, 2021, 80M) by Erika Hníková.



THE NEW BOARD OF FIPRESCI

General Assembly of FIPRESCI held on 14 and 15 September 2021 at Miskolc, Hungary formed the new board with Klaus Eder as the General Secretary, Isabelle Danel as the President, Rita Di Santo and Ahmed Shawky as the Vice Presidents. In 2020 there was no General Assembly due to pandemic, hence this year's GA covered both 2020 and 2021. Representatives from different countries participated the GA this year physically. Detailed report of

the GA will be published as soon as available. FIPRESCI-India submitted its activity-report of the national section in the GA. (Photo Courtesy: Klaus Eder)

24th MOTOVUN FILM FESTIVAL

Feature length documentary 'Factory to the Workers' (Croatia, 2021, 105M) by Srdan Kovacevic won the FIPRESCI Award in the 24th International Motovun Film Festival, Croatia (27-31 July 2021). The Jury composed of Muanis Sinanovic (Slovenia), Igor Angjelkov (Macedonia) and Hrvoje Puksec (Croatia). This year FIPRESCI celebrated the 20th anniversary of its cooperation with the festival as the first FIPRESCI Jury was installed in this festival in 2001.



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CALL FOR 4th NEPAL INTNL. FILM FESTIVAL

Call for entries for the 4th Nepal International Film Festival is now open. The festival scheduled to be held physically from 24 to 28 March 2022 in Kathmandu will showcase about hundred films in different competitive sections for Gautama Buddha Award for the Best Feature Film, IFFS Don Quixote Award for the Best Live Action Feature, Mt. Everest Award for the Best Documentary, Bagmati Award for the Best Live Action Short Fiction, Manjushree Award for the Best Animation in the international segment. There are competitions for national fiction and non-fiction films as well. All Awards include cash, trophy and citations.



'NO GROUND BENEATH THE FEET'

Mohammad Rabby Mridha's debut feature film 'No Ground Beneath the Feet' (Bangladesh, 2021, 91M) will be premiered in 'A Window on Asian Cinema' section of the 26th Busan International Film Festival (6-15 October 2021). Screenplay written by Mridha himself depicts the turbulent life story of an ambulance driver in Dhaka where two narratives, one in the ruthless city and the other in a remote village of Bangladesh



devastated by flood water, run parallelly centering the protagonist. Mostafa Monawar, Priyam Archi and Deepanwita Martin acted in the lead roles of the film produced by Abu Shahed Emon and Faridur Reza Sagar.



APARNA SEN'S 'THE RAPIST' IN BUSAN

Aparna Sen's Hindi feature film 'The Rapist' (India, 2021, 132M) starring Konkona Sen Sharma, Arjun Rampal and Tanmay Dhanania will be premiered at the 26th Busan International Film Festival (6-15 October 2021) in 'A Window on Asian Cinema' section. The film is nominated for the 'Kim Jiseok Award'. Story and screenplay of the film written by Sen herself narrates the journey of three protagonists whose lives get interlocked as a result of a dreadful

incident. Sen, who started her career in cinema in a lead role of Satyajit Ray's 'Teen Kanya' (1961) proved herself as one of the finest actors of India cinema by performing in about 80 feature films. She also earned critical appreciation as an ace director from her debut feature film '36 Chowringhee Lane' (English, Hindi, 1981) and made 15 feature films winning several National Awards. Her films are showcased in many international film festivals regularly worldwide. Aparna Sen is the daughter of FIPRESCI-India's Founder President Chidananda Dasgupta.

BHARAT MIRLE'S DEBUT FILM IN BUSAN

Bharat Mirle's debut feature film 'The Road to Kuthriyar' (English, Tamil, 2021, 124M) will be premiered in 'A Window on Asian Cinema' section of the 26th Busan International Film Festival (6-15 October 2021). The film narrates the story of a city-based wildlife zoologist conducting a mammal survey of the 600-sqKM Kodaikanal Wildlife Sanctuary in Tamil Nadu. Mirle himself wrote the screenplay of the film and produced it as well. Dhruv Athreya, Chinna Dorai, Parvathi OM and MK Raghavendra performed in different roles. Earlier Mirle made the short documentary '175 Grams' (2015), which won the Sundance Short Film Award in 2015. Bharat Mirle is the son of FIPRESCI-India's former Secretary MK Raghavendra.



NAYATTU: THE HUNT

Malayalam feature film 'Nayattu' (The Hunt, 2021, 122M) premiered on the OTT platform 'Netflix' on 8 April 2021 and got both popular and critical appreciation. The thriller directed and co-produced by Martin Prakkat and written by Shahi Kabir follows three cops hunted by the police department wrongfully accused of a murder charge. Editing by Mahesh Narayanan and Rajesh Rajendran is smart enough for such an absorbing thriller. Cinematography by Shyju Khalid is engrossing.



Performance of Kunchako Boban, Nimisha Sajayan and Joju George in the lead roles is fascinating.

E-CINEINDIA

July-Sept 2021 issue of E-CineIndia the quarterly film journal of FIPRESCI-India is now free to access at:

<http://www.fipresci-india.online/e-cine-india/>

This issue paid tribute to the eminent filmmaker Sumitra Bhavé. Proposals for contributions to the next issue (Oct-Dec 2021) could be sent to the Editor at: indiafipresci@gmail.com by 15 Oct 2021.

Tribute to Sumitra Bhavé

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